

Message Text

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R 140057Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T STATE 224419

EXDIS

THE FOL TEL FROM TEHRAN DATED NOV 8, 1973 TO SECSTATE WASHDC
TO LONDON DOD/ISA/NESA WASHDC JCS AND CNO IS REPTED:

"FOLLOWING CABLE REPEATED FYI ONLY AND NOT TO BE DISCUSSED".

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7860

EXDIS

RIYADH FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

CNO FOR ADMIRAL ZUMWALT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, IR
SUBJECT: USS HANCOCK TASK FORCE

REF: TEHRAN 7826

SECRET

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1. AMBASSADOR AND DCM MET ON NOV 8 WITH COURT MINISTER ALAM
FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF IRANIAN SUPPORT FOR USS HANCOCK TASK
FORCE. ALAM RECONFIRMED THAT P-3, COD AIRCRAFT AND C-141/C-130
LOGISTICS SU WORT FLIGHTS CAN GET UNDERWAY WHENEVER USG READY.

2. HOWEVER, GOI APPROVAL OF THIS EXERCISE AND WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE ARE CONTINGENT ON CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT USG WILL ABIDE BY COVER STORY WHICH WE HAVE WORKED OUT WITH GOI AND WHICH SHAH HAS APPROVED. WE EMPHASIZE THIS POINT BECAUSE WHILE SHAH HAS BEEN CHARACTERISTICALLY FORTHCOMING IN HIS RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST HE IS EQUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT LEAKS; AND WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD DEFER TO HIS JUDGMENT OF POLITICAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED IN CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. FOLLOWING IS NEW PRESS GUIDANCE APPROVED BY SHAH TO BE USED ONLY ON IF ASKED BASIS:

(A) REGARDING PRESENCE OF P-3 AIRCRAFT AT BANDAR ABBAS: "US P-3 AIRCRAFT ARE TEMPORARILY STATIONED IN BANDAR ABBAS IN ANSWER TO A REQUEST FROM THE IRANIAN AIR FORCE TO FAMILIARIZE IRANIAN AIRMEN WITH THE P-3 AIRCRAFT IRAN IS ACQUIRING."

(B) REGARDING OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF COD FLIGHTS TO TASK FORCE: "US AIRCRAFT ARE TEMPORARILY STAGING AT BANDAR ABBAS IN CONNECTION WITH A JOINT IRAN-US NAVAL EXERCISE."

4. WE WISH STRESS THAT FOREGOING COVER STORIES MUST RPT MUST BE USED BY WASHINGTON SPOKESMAN AND THAT WE SHOULD SPEAK WITH SAME VOICE IN US AS IN IRAN. QUESTION OF US GOOD FAITH IS INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER AND IF COVER STORIES GIVE US ANY PROBLEMS OR IF WE FORESEE ANY DIFFICULTY IN STICKING WITH THEM, WE SHOULD MAKE THIS EXPLICITLY CLEAR TO SHAH BEFORE OPERATION GETS UNDERWAY.

5. WITH ADM. RAFII, ACTING C-IN-C, JOINING MEETING, ALAM DISCUSSED FUEL REQUIREMENTS FOR TASK FORCE (PARA 6 STAT 219378). ACCORDING ALAM GOI DESIRES TO "IRANIZE" EXERCISE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND WOULD PREFER OILERS TO OPERATE UNDER IRANIAN FLAG. SINCE IIN DOES NOT HAVE SUCH OILERS GOI WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO HIRE OF COMMERCIAL TANKERS WITH UNDERSTANDING THESE WOULD BE RENTED BY GOI AND NOT USG. ONLY AS LAST RESORT, IF COMMERCIAL TANKERS NOT AVAILABLE, WOULD GOI AGREE TO US OILERS TRANSPORTING FUEL TO TASK FORCE. IN THIS CONNECTION FUEL REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED REFTEL NOT RPT NOT AVAILABLE AT BANDAR ABBAS. TANKERS WILL HAVE
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TO LOAD AT BANDAR MASOUR WHERE TASK FORCE FUEL REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MET.

6. ASSUMING ALL CONCERNED IN USG AGREE WITH COVER STORIES AND THEIR USE, OPERATION CAN GET UNDERWAY. REQUEST WE BE ADVISED ASAP WHEN WE CAN ANTICIPATE REQUEST FOR AIRCRAFT CLEARANCES FOR P-3S, COD AIRCRAFT AND C-141/CAQEP SUPPORT FLIGHTS. PLEASE ALSO ADVISE USN'S PREFERENCES ON HOW TO COPE WITH TASK FORCE FUEL REQUIREMENTS, IN LIGHT OF GROUND RULES SET DOWN BY SHAH.
HELMS
UNQTE CASEY

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